

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 15 and 18-27 are now pending.

Claims 13-15, 17, 22, and 28-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,148,404 (Brown) in view of Nolan, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,640,278 (Nolan) and "White Paper: Pathlight & Computer Associates Deliver Server-Free Backup" (Pathlight). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Pathlight and Nolan. The Examiner indicated that claims 18-21 and 23-27 contain allowable subject matter.

To expedite the allowance of the application, the applicants have chosen to rewrite claims 18 and 23 in independent form by adding the subject matter of the respective base and any intervening claims thereto. In addition, claim 15 has been amended to be dependent from claim 18, and claim 22 has been amended to be dependent from claim 21. Each remaining claim is now dependent from either claim 18 or claim 23, both of which have been held to contain allowable subject matter. The applicants retain the right to claim the subject matter of all rejected claims in a continuing application.

Each aspect of the Office Action having been addressed, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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